

COMMENDING THE TOURETTE
SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the national Tourette Syndrome Association for their hard work to have Tourette Syndrome listed as a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

On August 4, 2006 Margaret Spellings, the Secretary of the Department of Education, announced the final regulations enforcing Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act which now lists Tourette Syndrome in the category of "Other Health Impaired." This new classification means that students with Tourette Syndrome will no longer find themselves in limbo—knowing that they are legally entitled to receive the necessary educational accommodations but unable to point to specific language in the law that would protect their rights.

For years, many students with Tourette Syndrome who sought accommodations were labeled as having behavioral or emotional problems and not a neurological disorder. This incorrect designation sometimes placed students with Tourette Syndrome into classrooms with behaviorally or emotionally disturbed children. By including Tourette Syndrome in the law, the Department of Education is sending a clear message to schools across the country that Tourette Syndrome is a neurological disorder. The category is no longer a subject of debate and one more hurdle has been cleared for students with Tourette Syndrome.

The Tourette Syndrome Association and its members have been steadfast in working with Members of Congress and officials from the U.S. Department of Education for this designation in "Other Health Impaired." Over the years, they have held hundreds of meetings with many of my colleagues in this body and have sent us thousands of letters explaining the necessity and value of having Tourette Syndrome listed in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This victory for the Tourette Syndrome Association and its members has been long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would personally like to thank my friend Jeremy Scott, the Tourette Syndrome Association's Director of Public Policy, for his dedication and leadership to ensuring that Tourette Syndrome be added to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This accomplishment will positively impact the educational experiences of hundreds of thousands of children with Tourette Syndrome.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, due to the primary election in my Congressional District. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea", to H.R. 5428—Joshua A. Terando Princeton Post Office Building Designation Act and "yea", to H. Res. 175—Recognizing the

importance of establishing a national memorial at the World Trade Center site to commemorate and mourn the events of February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001.

I was also absent on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, due to unavoidable circumstances in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted: "no", on H. Res. 996—Ordering the Previous Question; "no", to H.R. 4893—to amend section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to restrict off-reservation gaming and "yea", to H. Res. 994—expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on H.J. Res. 88, H.R. 2808, H. Res. 605, H. Res. 875 and H. Res. 981. Had I been present, I would have voted for each of these measures.

I also missed votes on H.R. 503 and the Edwards motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 5122. Had I been present, I would have voted against these measures.

In addition, there was a vote on a motion to close portions of the defense authorization conference to the press and public when matters of national security are under consideration. Had I been present, I would have voted for this.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2864, WATER RESOURCES DE-
VELOPMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this motion, offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON), to instruct the House conferees to support the maximum level of hurricane and storm damage protection for the communities of coastal Louisiana and Mississippi.

Two weeks ago, this nation honored the 1 year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and the devastating impact this storm had on the Gulf Coast communities. Over the past year, we have had the ability to reflect on the lives and livelihoods that were forever changed by Hurricane Katrina, as well as on efforts to restore some sense of normalcy to the families and communities impacted by the storm. Few national efforts have been more important than those to rebuild the City of New Orleans, and the surrounding communities of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Not surprisingly, in the days immediately following Katrina's devastation, the Federal government spoke with one voice to support the rebuilding of Gulf Coast communities.

President Bush assured the residents of New Orleans and the outlying parishes, includ-

ing St. Bernard and Plaquemine parishes, that "people are paying attention to them," and it was the Federal government's duty to "help the good folks of this part of the world to get back on their feet."

A few days later, the President stood in Jackson Square, New Orleans, and made a commitment to rebuild Gulf Coast communities "better and stronger than before the storm."

Recognizing the importance of flood protection of the Gulf Coast communities, the President assured its citizens that the "Corps of Engineers will work at [the side of state and local officials] to make the flood protection system stronger than it has ever been before."

Unfortunately, in the time that has elapsed since the President proclaimed these words from the heart of New Orleans, the administration's commitment to the Gulf Coast communities has wavered, and his pledge to rebuild all of the affected communities "better and stronger than before the storm" has fallen by the wayside—promises that have fallen victim to politics, and a renewed interest in fiscal conservatism.

While the administration may waiver in its commitment to help the families affected by Hurricane Katrina, I support this motion to instruct the conferees to renew Congressional commitment to adequately protect the entire Gulf Coast region.

Mr. Speaker, I find it ironic that this administration, which has gone on the offensive criticizing any individual who would question U.S. policy in Iraq as "cutting and running" would feel comfortable walking away from the plight of its own citizenry in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

On Monday night, marking the fifth anniversary of the September 11th attacks, President Bush, speaking of Iraq, proclaimed to the American people that "We would not leave until the work is done." However, it would appear that the message to the residents of in many Gulf coast communities is that the U.S. government will leave before the work has even commenced—and you may be on your own in rebuilding your lives.

That is unconscionable.

Mr. Speaker, one of the lessons learned from experiences of Hurricane Katrina is the importance of well designed, and properly maintained flood control structures in protecting lives and livelihoods in the coastal areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. These structures literally define the areas considered safe for homes and businesses to locate, and without which, communities, such as the City of New Orleans, could not exist.

While Hurricane Katrina did not destroy all of the more than 350 miles of flood control structures protecting southeast Louisiana, it did expose the weaknesses in a system vital to the more than one million residents of the region. Katrina was also a stark reminder of the importance of proper planning, construction, and maintenance of flood protection projects, because these projects literally protect the lives of families living behind these structures.

Mr. Speaker, this motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005, is important for two reasons.

First, it renews the commitment of Congress to provide the maximum level of flood protection for areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina to help its citizens restore their lives and livelihoods. Without adequate flood protection,